



Caltrans' mission to improve mobility across California includes providing transportation services in an equitable manner to all segments of society. Caltrans emphasizes the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, and income levels, including minority and low-income populations, from the early stages of transportation planning and investment decision making through construction, operation, and maintenance. It is Caltrans' policy to encourage the public to express their needs and concerns so that transportation decisions better reflect community values and interests.

Caltrans also encourages the public to get engaged early in the planning process, particularly at the local level, and to stay involved throughout the many stages of the transportation project development. *Figure 1: Planning and Funding Transportation Projects in California* shows how public involvement occurs throughout the transportation planning and funding process.

Federal laws and regulations require public involvement during the transportation planning and decision-making process. These laws and regulations flow from legislation typically passed every six years that accompanies "reauthorization" of new federal transportation funding. The most recent reauthorization in 2005, the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users* (SAFETEA-LU), affirms the prior emphasis on providing early and continuous opportunities for public comment (for a complete list of the SAFETEA-LU planning rules see Appendix A). Along with SAFETEA-LU, Caltrans follows other laws and policies that support public involvement. These laws and policies include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Context Sensitive Solutions, a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to transportation decision making that involves all stakeholders, including the public.

To form an effective and comprehensive public participation process, the Caltrans PPP team asked the



In this document, you'll find several

boxes with **"keys to public participation success."**

These boxes provide key pointers on how to get involved in the transportation decision-making process.



What We Heard

- The public has a high level of interest in transportation planning and programming (particularly local and regional) among all groups.
- The public does not understand how to find information or how to provide input.
- The public has a desire to clearly understand the transportation system and its impacts.
- The public wants to express opinions and have them matter.
- The public wants their input to be meaningful.
- The public prefers the Internet as the main communication medium.

public how they would like to be involved during the development of the CTP and FSTIP. We wanted to find out how much the public already knew about transportation planning and programming, if they were interested in being more involved in these processes, and strategies they thought would be the most effective for public input. To help us gather this information, Caltrans engaged the consulting firm of Moore, Iacofano, Goltsman, Inc. (MIG), a recognized leader in public participation and facilitation.

We used three main methods to involve the public in developing this PPP:

- **Phone interviews** with representatives of key stakeholder groups
- Four **focus groups** held at different locations throughout the State
- A **web survey** open to anyone interested in transportation issues

Summary reports from these three activities can be found at our PPP website at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/osp/ppp.html> (see sidebar for highlights of “What We Heard” from the public).

FIGURE 1: Planning and Funding Transportation Projects in California

